

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

B1 86. (Amended) The initiator of Claim 81, wherein Y is [the biodegradation product of a biodegradable polymer] ~~a biodegradable core molecule which can be degraded by natural processes.~~

Please add new claim 116, as follows:

B2 --116. The initiator of claim 111, wherein X is a halogen.--

REMARKS

1. Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the Examiner requires restriction of the application to one of the following invention groups:

Group I: Claims 68-112, drawn to polymerization initiators and methods of making, classified in class 502, subclass 150 and other subclasses; or

Group II: Claim 113-115, drawn to polymerization methods, classified in class 526, subclass 90 and other subclasses.

Responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully elect, without traverse, Group I, including claims 68-112, for further prosecution in the application. Applicants retain the right to prosecute the non-elected claims in the future.

2. Election of Species

The Examiner asserts that the Applicants are required to elect under 35 U.S.C. § 121 disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner indicates that in his opinion claims 68, 81, 91, 96 and 104 are generic. Responsive to this requirement, Applicants choose 2, 2'

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Azobis [2-methyl-N-(2-(2-bromoisobutyryloxy)-ethyl) propionamide] from Example 270.

Claims 69, 72-80 read on this election.

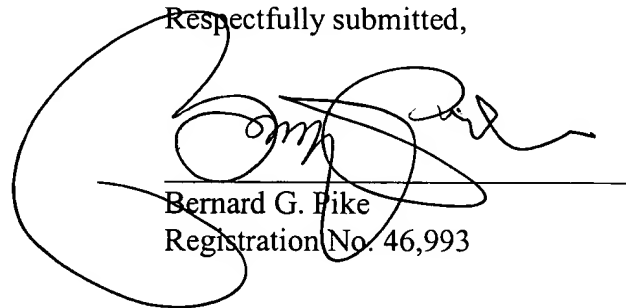
3. Claim Amendment and New Claims

Applicants herein submit that claim 86 and 116 as herein amended as fully supported by the specification as filed.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants have made a diligent effort to fully respond to the restriction and election requirement presented by the Examiner. Examination of the application's elected claims and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any concerns regarding Applicants' present response, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below so that those concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard G. Pike", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Bernard G. Pike
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